

REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action dated February 23, 2006 in which claims 3-18 and 27-29 were allowed, claims 19, 20, 23-26, 30, 31, and 33 were rejected, and claims 21-22, 27-29, 32, 34 were objected to as depending from rejected claims. With this Amendment, independent claims 19 and 30 are amended. Claims 3-34 remain in the case and are presented for reconsideration and allowance.

Claims 19-20, 23-26, 30-31, and 33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by applicant's admitted prior art (AAPA) as shown in FIGS. 2A-2B of the present application. In paragraph 5 of the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that a change in elevation is depicted in FIGS. 2A-2B as the interface at dashed line 50. That interface, however, is the interface between the slider body 42 made of one material, and the transducer basecoat portion that contains the transducer. There is no interface between two different portions of the slider shown in FIGS. 2A and 2B. This is in contrast to the embodiment shown in FIGS. 5A and 5B or in 7A and 7B, where the slider contains a forward region 66 of one material, a rearward portion 68 of the second material which meet at interface 50, and a transducer basecoat portion 44 which is located adjacent the rear most part of rearward portion 68.

On May 18, 2006, applicant's attorney David R. Fairbairn discussed independent claims 19 and 30 and the prior art shown in FIG. 2A-2B with Examiner Brian Miller. The result was a better understanding of the basis for the rejection and the possible amendment of claims 19 and 30 as reflected in the Amendment.

Independent claims 19 and 30 have been amended to identify the interface between the front body portion and the rear body portion as a first interface, and the interface between the rear body portion and the basecoat portion as the second interface. With this Amendment, independent claims 19 and 30, as well as dependent claims 20-26 and 31-34 are now in condition for allowance.

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Application No.: 09/884,796

-10-

In paragraphs 3 and 4 of the Office Action, dependent claims 27-29, which depend from allowed claim 8, were indicated both as being allowable over the prior art of record, and objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Since claims 27-29 depend from claim 8, which was indicated as allowable in paragraph 3, the objection to claims 27-29 should be withdrawn.

In conclusion, the amendments to independent claims 19 and 30 overcome the rejections stated in the Office Action. All claims are now allowable and respectfully request notice to that effect.

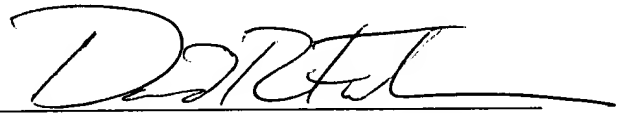
Respectfully submitted,

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